

Respiratory Therapy DCD Guidelines

Thank you so much for being available to help our team save lives! We could not do this without you, so please know how much we appreciate you and your team. In order to prevent any miscommunications, we have put together this handy reference for you to refer to at any time during this process. If you have further questions, please reach out to any member of the Lifesharing team so we can assist you as best as we can.

- We know you are busy so please let us know how we can assist you as well, but we ask that you have a transport ventilator prepared in case it is not feasible to have the patient's ventilator brought down to PACU with us.
- You will transport to PACU with our team approximately 30 minutes prior to the scheduled withdrawal of care time. Please bring extra towels, face wipes, a syringe to deflate the cuff, and any other supplies you may need for extubation with us as we will not be returning to the unit prior to extubation.
- Once we are settled in the PACU we will be giving the family some time to say goodbye. Once our OR team is situated we will instruct the bedside nurse to give a large dose of heparin. We will then start a timer for 5 minutes. Around 4 minutes, please feel free to begin to loosen the Hollister or other endotracheal ties and prep for extubation. Do not extubate until our staff says it is time.
- Once the patient is extubated it is always great if you are able to clean their face a bit, suction them, and take any supplies with you. After the patient is extubated you are free to leave.
- Again, we know you are busy and staffing is a challenge, but please ensure that you are available to assist for the duration of time it takes to complete the extubation.
- Our staff is here to assist you as best we can, please do not hesitate to ask questions if further clarification is needed.

Thank you again so much for collaborating with us and assisting us in our mission to honor our donor's gifts and save lives!